

PAC – PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

Visit www.generalwolfepac.ca



March 2016 Newsletter

PAC EXECUTIVE	
Michael Nedelec, Chair	michaelnedelec@shaw.ca
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Please feel free to contact any of the PAC Executive with questions, ideas and general information.

Next PAC Meeting: Wednesday, April 6th, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Mark your calendars!

Hot Lunch Program at risk of being discontinued

The hot lunch program here at Wolfe is a legacy from the days when Wolfe was an inner city school. We are one of the very few non-inner city schools in Vancouver with a hot lunch program, and currently about 90 students are served by the program. To sustain the program, it needs to be done on a cost recovery model for both the food and the staffing. To support this, we need approximately 120 students signed up each day. Currently, we are sitting at about 90 students.

Part of the lunch program is the staffing; we are very lucky to have Rosa Spinelli as our cafeteria worker. As well as offering a lunch program, the program also offers leadership opportunities to a dedicated group of student volunteers who Rosa has carefully trained, and we really appreciate the work these students do.

Many parents find it very convenient not to be packing a lunch every day. If we lose the program, there will be no chance of re-instatement as a district run lunch program.

If you'd like to hear more, come out to the PAC meeting on Wednesday, April 6th at 6:30 PM.

Volunteers Needed!!!

Volunteers are essential to making the PAC and PAC events function. Currently we are in need of volunteers for:

1. PAC Playground Fundraising Call to Action!

After a long day at work and school and family and soccer/hockey/dance/band/swimming/homework and the like -- the dishes are done (and work emails can wait) and now the kids are in bed – WHO DOESN'T want their favourite book, a glass of something to take the edge off OR Netflix and Season 4 of your

favourite series lined up ready to go?

OR better yet to open up the laptop and help with fundraising for the new Wolfe playground...

The current and future students of General Wolfe need your help. They really do!

As most of you are aware, our northeastern wooden playground was removed before the 2015/2016 school year as it was deemed unsafe. The provincial government and VSB will not pay for the replacement playground. If you would like to challenge that lack of funding, please contact us and we would be happy to help with your effort with contact information and letter writing guidance.

But as we don't see a short term solution to VSB playground funding, we need to ramp up our fundraising efforts to reach our playground replacement goal of \$150,000. To date we are halfway there through the efforts of the Wolfe Community in recent years. The huge efforts of the Wolfe Community with Walkathons, Silent Auctions, Casino Nights, bake sales and many other fundraisers has given us a \$50K head start.

To date this year we have commitments for another \$25,000.

And now we need YOUR help. We need to broaden the base of fundraisers at Wolfe and intensify the effort. We need the WHOLE school to chip in and help out.

How?

Do you work for a larger corporation that has funding for charitable causes? We need to approach these organizations. We have great packages ready to use for potential funders. Please contact Deb Coll at colldebi@gmail.com or 778.887.3324 to obtain packages and sample pitch letters and she will help you with the communication, messaging and materials.

There is also funding out there to be found by way of government and corporate grants. Would you like to help write grant applications? Please contact Jaimini Thakore or Marilyn Kynaston to coordinate those efforts:

Jaimini Thakore - jathakore@gmail.com or 778.874.2330
Marilyn Kynaston - marilynk@telus.net or 604.783.1745

If you can help with Silent Auction items either from the Main/Cambie/Fraser businesses, your own employer or your vendor or your customer base, **please contact Jennifer Kim at jenniferkim@telus.net or 778.772.2777.**

Would you like to help with approaching Main/Cambie/King Edward developers? **Please contact Jen Evans at jenif59@gmail.com or 604.782.0431.**

Shortly, we will have some printed material so that the Wolfe kids can help too. They can use it with neighbours, alumni, extended family etc. and get the message out.

In the meantime we have the literature —we have the studies —and we have a researched initial playground proposal. We have had good success so far and find great support when we ask for it. And if you haven't done so already, please check out Wolfe's PAC website playground fundraising page at: <http://www.generalwolfepac.ca/4-2/the-playground-of-desolation/>

Even if you think fundraising is not for you – please give it a try – we need your help.

We would like to thank all the parents, teachers and local supporters for all they do to make Wolfe such

a great school and greater community.

Best regards,
Michael Nedelec
PAC Chair
604.676.0920
michaelnedelec@shaw.ca

Susan Nichols
GWE Principal

2. Green Thumbs Wanted!

Parent volunteers – we need your help to keep growing.

For over 25 years, the unique naturalized, boulevard and planter beds at General Wolfe have provided students with opportunities for learning and immediate access to nature. The indigenous plants behind the annex are unique.

This is the gardening blog for General Wolfe Elementary:

<http://www.generalwolfegardens.blogspot.ca/>

This is a good place to start to read the history and see some of the highlights of the past few years.

Boulevard Champion Wanted: City of Vancouver Green Streets

Boulevard Gardening is over 500 gardens strong in the city. The General Wolfe PAC has been the volunteer group that has raked, planted, weeded, pruned, and removed garbage from our 11 individual beds for a few years. We need someone to be the Wolfe PAC Liaison in the upcoming year. Without a volunteer from the parent of nearby community, the city will come and likely dig up much of the good work, as well as put toxic mulches on our amended soil. These gardens often require more maintenance than planter boxes so can be easier than other spaces to take care of.

<http://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/gardening-on-traffic-calming-spaces.aspx>

Master Gardener Community Project has closed. Despite a successful Friday After School Garden Club, we simply didn't have enough community engagement from parents to keep it active, as Master Gardeners are required to provide volunteer advice and not just do physical work.

3. Call for new Event Lead now! QSP Magazine Fundraiser

This is a significant and important fundraiser. Dawn Dunkerley is stepping down from QSP coordinator after 5 years of running it and we need your help to keep this running. It is not an arduous fund raiser to coordinate. It involves organizing the QSP representative to come speak and distribute the fliers/booklets to the kids (mid-September or early October); Send in paper orders (late October); Distribute prizes (early November). Here is some information shared by Dawn:

Why do you read? What do you want your child to get out of reading?

Do you have a reluctant reader or are you blessed with a child who has his or her nose stuck in a book?

*What fun it is to read! I have a passion to develop a love of reading in children since I think it is the key to being **a life long learner**. Research says that children who have a good grasp on reading will excel in school and in life. Makes sense, right?*

*I have three kids (ages 13,11,9) and two of them were "**definitely reluctant readers**." For instance, I had to wrap my younger son up in a blanket and put him on my lap so he would stay and read for 20 seconds! We eventually read like that for a minute which was a huge success and now he has his nose constantly stuck in a book (much to his teacher's frustration). My daughter also had to work at "loving" reading but now, in grade 4, she is excited about her book club!*

There are many things you can do to change your child's perspective:

- *Have reading material around that they will pick up and read*

- Go to the library weekly
- Keep reading to your kids daily even when they can read to themselves

*I know this is a strange way to promote a **MAGAZINE Fundraiser** however, I feel that it was the magazines (OWL Magazine in particular) that switched my kids from reluctant readers to lovers of reading! ...And now they read Popular Science, novels and yes still Owl magazine!*

*Please consider looking through your QSP catalog (you should have received it last Friday or this past Monday) and then putting an on-line or paper order in at **QSP.ca (ID:3701919)**. There are many great magazines for you, friends, neighbours and relatives (they make excellent gifts!). And Gosh, when kids see you reading they are more likely to sit down and read too- at least that is what the research says.*

We have some 'reading' incentives to motivate you and your child to sell but I think the best incentive is when the magazine comes in and they are fighting over who gets to read it first! Those are good fights. So please check out your catalogue.

*Questions or you just want to talk? I'd be thrilled to share some tips.
Happy reading
Dawn*

5. Halloween Dance for Fall 2016

Volunteers needed to organize Halloween Dance event for next school year (Fall 2016). Thanks to Lisa Scott and Dawn Dunkerley for doing such great work in past years. If you are interested in learning more about how you can help, please contact Lisa Scott at lisamscott@telus.net to get more information.

6. Volleyball and soccer coaches needed for Fall 2016!

There is a call for coaches for next school year (Fall 2016) for soccer and volleyball teams! Please considering volunteering to coach if you are interested.

Update on PAC website!

Exciting news: donations/payment can now be conveniently submitted ONLINE on our PAC website. So tell your family and friends that it is EASY to donate as much as they'd like! Just go to:

www.generalwolfepac.ca

Launch of Recycling Program

Hello Wolfe Community!

My name is John Kim - Wolfe parent and father of Jamie (Gr. 4) and Jessica (Gr. 6).

With the arrival of spring, the season of growth and renewal, I am pleased to announce the launch of General Wolfe Elementary School's Alternative Recycling Program.

Through the generous support of your PAC and the school administration, the program is now school-wide, with each school classroom equipped with two recycling bins meant to collect two streams of materials that are not currently recyclable through the City of Vancouver's curbside program: First - soft plastics, and Second - foil-lined materials.

Soft plastics are grocery bag-type materials that can be crumpled by hand (and remain so even after your grip is released). Examples include: typical grocery store and retail shopping bags, food grade plastic wrap, package shrink-wrap, dry-cleaning bags.

Foil-lined materials are materials that are shiny or reflective on at least one side (general guideline is that one side would reflect glare in direct sunlight). Examples include: granola and snack bar wrappers, most chip bags.

The goal of the program is to reduce the waste stream that our school generates. If these materials are not diverted, they would go directly to a landfill.

You may not be aware, but Wolfe has already made a difference: This program was piloted last year in Mr. Smathers' and Ms. Walker's classrooms and was wildly successful, generating over 30 large garbage bag-sized collection bags, not to mention eager participation and one large celebration pizza party!

Please encourage your child's participation by making mention of the program (hey, at least it is one "safe" dinner conversation topic related to school! J), and possibly even setting an example by starting your own household collection. And if you're wondering, the answer is Yes we would gladly welcome your household collection at school.

If your kid was a classmate of Jamie or Jessica last year, then they are already aware of the program and can be an expert or classroom Champion in their new class.

A big take-away for me last year was that kids want to make a difference, and they just need to be given an opportunity to do so.

Thank you in advance for your time reading this and supporting the program.

*Best Regards,
John*

PS If you have any questions or concerns regarding the program, please do not hesitate to reach out to me personally at johnkim@telus.net.

Upcoming Events:

Silent Auction – Thursday, April 21st 8th ANNUAL GENERAL WOLFE AUCTION NIGHT Thursday April 21, 2016 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm

It's that time of year again - one of the most social evenings of the year for General Wolfe parents! Come out on April 21st to meet other parents and neighbors, enjoy a beverage or two and bid on a collection of interesting and fun auction items.

PARENTS – YOU CAN HELP OUT IN MANY WAYS:

- Volunteer
- Donate an item to the auction
- Buy a ticket & encourage other parents & neighbours to attend
- Bid on auction items that evening

Please email Katie at stevenson.kml@gmail.com if you can volunteer to help - whether it is to help sell tickets, to volunteer the night of the event, or to join the Silent Auction Committee. This is the last year for many of the members of the Silent Auction Committee - so we need new members NOW to transition and continue with this successful fundraiser for the school!

DONATE AN ITEM TO THE AUCTION

- Do you work for an organization that can donate an interesting auction item?
- Do you have a personal or homemade item or service you would like to donate?
- Vacation in Whistler condo
- Birthday party packages
- Gift certificates at local and Vancouver restaurants
- Tickets to sports or entertainment events
- Handyman services, baking, babysitting services
- Do you have a friend, neighbor, family member that would be interested?

Please email Colleen at vondehn@gmail.com to let us know what you can donate soon.

BUY A TICKET & JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING!

- Tickets for the event are \$15 a ticket pre-sale or \$20 at the door. Please email Colleen at vondehns@gmail.com to order your tickets.
- Ticket price includes entry and a glass of wine or beer
- This is an ADULT only event –however we will be providing CHILDCARE. If you choose to bring your kids – please let us know if you need CHILDCARE and how many children when you RSVP.